

1 **R277. Education, Administration.**

2 **R277-705. Secondary School Completion and Diplomas.**

3 **R277-705-[2]1. Authority and Purpose.**

4 ~~[A.](1)~~ This rule is authorized by:

5 ~~(a) Utah Constitution~~ Article X, Section 3, ~~[of the Utah Constitution,]~~ which
6 ~~[places]~~ vests general control and supervision of ~~[the—]~~ public ~~[schools~~
7 ~~under]~~ education in the Board;

8 ~~(b) Subsections~~ 53A-1-402(1)(b) and (c), which direct the Board to make rules
9 regarding competency levels, graduation requirements, curriculum, and instruction
10 requirements; and

11 ~~(c) Subsection~~ 53A-1-401(3), which allows the Board to adopt rules in
12 accordance with its responsibilities.

13 ~~[B.](2)~~ The purpose of this rule is to:

14 ~~(a)~~ provide consistent definitions[-];

15 ~~(b)~~ provide alternative methods for a student[s] to earn credit and alternate
16 methods for schools to award credit[-]; and

17 ~~(c) [to-]~~ provide rules and procedures for the assessment of all students as
18 required by law.

19 **R277-705-[4]2. Definitions.**

20 ~~[A. “Accreditation” means the formal process for internal and external review~~
21 ~~and approval under the Standards for the Northwest Accreditation Commission, a~~
22 ~~division of Advance Education Inc., (AdvancED Northwest).~~

23 ~~—— B. “Board” means the Utah State Board of Education.]~~

24 ~~[C.](1)~~ “Demonstrated competence” means subject mastery as determined
25 by LEA standards and review. LEA review may include such methods and
26 documentation as: tests, interviews, peer evaluations, writing samples, reports or
27 portfolios.

28 ~~[D.](2)~~ “Diploma” means an official document awarded by an LEA consistent
29 with state and LEA graduation requirements and the provisions of this rule.

30 ~~[E. “Individualized Education Program (IEP)” means a written statement for~~
31 ~~a student with a disability that is developed, reviewed, and revised in accordance~~

with the Utah Special Education Rules and Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA):

~~—— F. “LEA” means a local education agency, including local school boards/public school districts and schools, and charter schools.]~~

~~[G. “Military child or children” means a K-12 public education student whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) satisfies the definition of Section 53A-11-1401.]~~

[H.](3)(a) “Secondary school” means grades 7-12 in whatever kind of school the grade levels exist.

(b) Grade 6 may be considered a secondary grade for some purposes.

[I.](4) “Section 504 plan” means a written statement of reasonable accommodations for a student with a qualifying disability that is developed, reviewed, and revised in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

[J.](5)(a) “Special purpose school[s]” means a school[s] designated by a regional accrediting agency, [such as AdvancED Northwest] adopted by the Board.

(b) ~~[These schools typically]~~ “Special purpose school” includes a school:

(i) that serves a specific population such as a student[s] with a disability, youth in custody, or a school[s] with a specific curricular emphasis[-]; and

(ii) ~~[Their courses and]~~ with curricula[-are] designed to serve ~~[their]~~ specific populations ~~[and]that~~ may be modified from a traditional program[s].

[K.](6) “Supplemental education provider” means a private school or educational service provider~~[-which]~~:

(a) that may or may not be accredited[-]; and

(b) that provides courses or services similar to public school courses[f] or classes.

[L.](7)(a) “Transcript” means an official document or record~~[(s)]~~ generated by one or several schools which includes~~[-, at a minimum]~~:

(i) the courses in which a secondary student was enrolled[-];

(ii) grades and units of credit earned[-]; and

(iii) citizenship and attendance records.

(b) ~~[The]~~ A transcript is ~~[-usually]~~ one part of [the] a student’s permanent record or cumulative file [which also]that may include:

- 64 (i) birth certificate[;]
65 (ii) immunization records; and
66 (iii) other information as determined by the school in possession of the record.
67 ~~[M.](8)~~ “Unit of credit” means credit awarded for a course[s] taken;
68 (a) consistent with this rule~~[-or]~~;
69 (b) upon LEA authorization; or
70 (c) for mastery demonstrated by approved methods.

71 **R277-705-3. Required LEA Policy Explaining Student Credit.**

72 ~~[A.](1)(a) [All Utah]An LEA[s] governing board~~ shall ~~[have a policy,~~
73 ~~approved]~~establish a policy, in an open meeting~~[by the governing board]~~, explaining
74 the process and standards for acceptance and reciprocity of credits earned by a
75 student[s] in accordance with ~~[Utah]~~state law.

76 (b) An LEA ~~[P]polic[ies]y~~ described in Subsection (1)(a) shall ~~[provide~~
77 ~~for]~~include specific and adequate notice to a student[s] and a parent[s] of all policy
78 requirements and limitations.

79 ~~[B. LEAs shall adhere to the following standards for credits or coursework~~
80 ~~from schools, supplemental education providers accredited by the Northwest~~
81 ~~Accreditation Commission, and accredited distance learning schools:]~~

82 ~~[(1)2](a) [Public schools]~~An LEA shall accept credits and grades awarded to
83 a student[s] from a school[s] or a provider[s] accredited by ~~[the Northwest~~
84 ~~Accreditation Commission or approved]~~an accrediting entity adopted by the Board
85 ~~[without alteration]~~.

86 ~~[(2)b]~~ An LEA ~~polic[ies]y~~ may establish reasonable timelines and may require
87 adequate and timely documentation of authenticity for credits and grades submitted.

88 ~~[C.](3)~~ An LEA ~~polic[ies]y~~ shall provide various methods for a student[s] to
89 earn credit from a non-accredited source[s], course work, or education provider[s].
90 ~~Methods, as designated by the LEA may]~~ includ[e]ing:

91 ~~[(1)a]~~ [S]satisfaction of coursework by demonstrated competency, as
92 evaluated at the LEA level;

93 ~~[(2)b]~~ [A]assessment as proctored and determined at the school or school
94 level;

([3]c) [R]review of student work or projects by an LEA administrator[s]; and
([4]d) [S]atisfaction of electronic or correspondence coursework, as approved
at the LEA level.

[D-](4) An LEA[s] may require documentation of compliance with Section
53A-11-102 prior to reviewing a student's home school or competency work,
assessment or materials.

[E-](5) An LEA polic[ies]y for participation in extracurricular activities, awards,
recognitions, and enhanced diplomas may be determined locally consistent with the
law and this rule.

[F-](6) An LEA has the final decision-making authority for the awarding of
credit and grades from a non-accredited source[s] consistent with state law, due
process, and this rule.

R277-705-4. Diplomas and Certificates of Completion.

[A-](1) An LEA[s] shall award diplomas and certificates of completion.

[B-](2) An LEA[s] shall establish criteria for a student[s] to earn a certificate
of completion that may be awarded to a student[s] who:

(a) ha[ve]s completed the[ir] student's senior year[;];

(b) [are]is exiting the school system[;]; and

(c) ha[ve]s not met all state or LEA requirements for a diploma.

R277-705-5. Students with Disabilities.

[A-](1) A student with a disabilit[ies]y served by a special education
program[s] shall satisfy high school completion or graduation criteria, consistent with
state and federal law and the student's IEP.

[B-](2) An LEA may award a student[~~may be awarded~~] a certificate of
completion consistent with state and federal law and the student's IEP or Section
504 Plan.

R277-705-6. Adult Education Students.

[A-](1) An [A]adult education student[s~~are~~] is eligible only for an adult
education secondary diploma.

124 ~~[B-](2)~~ An adult education diploma~~[s cannot]~~ may not be upgraded or changed
125 to a traditional, high school-specific diploma~~[s]~~.

126 ~~[C-](3)~~ A ~~[S]~~ school district~~[s]~~ shall establish a polic~~[ies]~~y:

127 ~~([1])~~a) allowing or disallowing adult education student participation in
128 graduation activities or ceremonies~~[-]; and~~

129 ~~([2])~~b) establishing timelines and criteria for satisfying adult education
130 graduation~~[f]~~ and diploma requirements.

131 **R277-705-7. Student Rights and Responsibilities Related to Graduation,**
132 **Transcripts and Receipt of Diplomas.**

133 ~~[A-](1)~~ An LEA~~[s]~~ shall supervise the granting of credit and awarding of
134 diplomas, but may delegate the responsibility to schools within the LEA.

135 ~~[B-](2)~~ An LEA may determine criteria for a student's participation in
136 graduation activities, honors, and exercises, independent of a student's receipt of a
137 diploma or certificate of completion.

138 ~~[C-](3)~~ A ~~[D]~~ diploma~~[s or]~~, a certificate~~[s]~~, credits, or an unofficial transcript~~[s]~~
139 may not be withheld from a student~~[s]~~ for nonpayment of school fees.

140 ~~[D-](4)(a)~~ An LEA~~[s]~~ shall establish a consistent timeline~~[s]~~ for all students for
141 completion of graduation requirements.

142 ~~(b)~~ A [F] timeline[s] described in Subsection (4)(a) shall be consistent with
143 state law and this rule.

144 ~~[E. LEAs shall work with enrolled military children to evaluate the students'~~
145 ~~coursework or to assist students in completing coursework to allow military children~~
146 ~~to graduate with the students' age-appropriate graduating class consistent with~~
147 ~~Section 53A-11-1404.~~

148 ~~—— F. Consistent with Section 53A-11-1404(3), if a Utah school is unable to~~
149 ~~facilitate a military child's receipt of diploma by evaluating coursework in Utah~~
150 ~~schools and previous schools attended, the Utah school shall contact the military~~
151 ~~child's previous local education agency and aid, to the extent possible, the receipt~~
152 ~~of a diploma.]~~

153 ~~[G-](5)~~ An LEA's ~~[G]~~ graduation requirements ~~[are not]~~ may not apply
154 retroactively.

155 **KEY: curricula, credit, adult education, graduation requirements**
156 **Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: [~~November 7, 2013~~]2016**
157 **Notice of Continuation: [~~September 13, 2013~~]2015**
158 **Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: Art X Sec 3; 53A-1-402(1)(b);**
159 **53A-1-401(3)**